

Response dated December 21, 2005
Response to Office Action September 22, 2005

Application No. 10/079,338

REMARKS

The Office Action of September 22, 2005 has been reviewed and the comments therein were carefully considered. Claims 6-11 and 23-32 are pending in this application. Claims 28 and 29 have been allowed, claims 10 and 11 are objected to, and claims 6-9, 23-27, 30 and 31 stand rejected.

Interview of November 9, 2005

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the interview conducted on November 9, 2005. During the interview, the Applicants' representative discussed with the Examiner the status of the application. The Examiner also remarked during the interview that previously rejected claims 6, 23 and 30 could be rendered allowable with the incorporation of the matter in the objected-to claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 28 and 29, as noted in the Office Action of September 22, 2005.

Rejection for Double Patenting

The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for removing the provisional rejection of claims 6-8, 23-25, 27 and 30 for Double Patenting.

Claim Amendments

To expedite prosecution of this application, the Applicants have substantively amended claims 6, 23 and 30 to incorporate the allowable limitations of objected to claim 10. The Applicants have also made non-substantive amendments to claims 7, 9, 11, 24-26 and 31 accordingly. The Applicants have canceled claim 10.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 6, 9 and 23 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0037160 ("Wall"), previously cited. To expedite prosecution of this application, the Applicants have amended independent claims 6 and 23 to include the

Response dated December 21, 2005
Response to Office Action September 22, 2005

Application No. 10/079,338

limitations of objected to claim 10. Based on these amendments, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6 and 23 are in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, because claims 7-9, 11 and 24-27 ultimately depend from allowable claims 6 and 23, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-11 and 24-27 are also in condition for allowance for at least the same reason as claims 6 and 23.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7-8, 24-27, 30 and 31 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wall in view of U.S. Patent 6,360,076 ("Segura"). To further expedite prosecution of this application, the Applicants has also amended independent claim 30 to include the limitations of objected to claim 10. Based on this amendment, the Applicants respectfully submit that 30 is in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, because claim 31 ultimately depends from allowable claim 30, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 is also in condition for allowance for at least the same reason as claim 30.

The allowability of claims 7-8 and 24-27 was discussed in the previous section.

Response dated December 21, 2005
Response to Office Action September 22, 2005

Application I.D. 10/079,338

CONCLUSION

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned should it be deemed necessary to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 21, 2005



Phoebe Phillips Bower
Registration No. 56,431
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD
10 South Wacker Drive, #3000
Chicago, IL 60606
Telephone: 312-463-5000
Facsimile: 312-463-5001